

LC State President's Council Summary of March 5, 2021 Meeting

PRESIDENT PEMBERTON: Info Items & Updates

- Spring 2021: COVID Testing, Protocols, Events
 - Testing for campus housing residents, staff and faculty
 - Protocols remain in effect: social distancing, masks etc., need to 'stay the course'
 - Have not heard if the Governor will move to vaccinations for Group 3 yet
 - Events and activities remain limited. Our focus is on LC State events over outside groups. Upcoming event possibilities include: Art Under the Elms, CDA Golf Scramble, Commencement with 3 ceremonies, NAIA World Series.
- Fall 2021 Planning: **Near-normal operations.** Live and in-person campus / education experience. Will continue protocols if and as needed. Anticipate the following:
 - Gathering size limits and continued focus on LC State events and activities –limited external use considerations. Group gathering numbers to be determined pending State and Public Health guidance as we move through summer.
 - Maybe somewhat reduced class size limits, but anticipate more “normal” class occupancy/capacities – we can plan for this with registration, and be pivot-ready in case needed; probably need some messaging about this beginning with and consistently throughout the registration period and processes.
 - Possible face coverings inside buildings. Hoping that outside these will become unnecessary.
 - Goal = move back toward F2019 fully online percentages (20%ish); okay to continue some modified formats, but these need to be minimal in number and approved in cases only when we have high confidence associated with providing quality education experiences; and/or clearly facilitating increased accessibility across student demographic groups and locations – positive impact recruitment and retention. Face-to-face our norm.
 - If we have to pivot to more modified formats, increased online, and/or modified schedule re: remote post-Thanksgiving break; we will do that in response to warranted conditions as we move through summer and into fall. Our planning at this time should focus on a **near normal** experience.
- JFAC Recommendation & what it means (tuition/fees, sister institutions, etc.)
 - JFAC recommendation is to support the Governor's recommendations in terms of the higher ed budget, with the addition of \$409,000 (proposed reallocation from BSU).
 - LC State did not stand with sister institutions on a tuition freeze for next academic year because of CEC considerations. Longitudinal trend data relative to the relationship between state appropriations (declines) and tuition/fee increases were reviewed as were trend data associated with LC State's Enrollment Workload Adjustment (EWA) allocations. If the \$409,000.00 reallocation occurs, LC State will be in a position not to raise tuition/fees for the coming year.

- Relative to CEC, understanding at this time is that the 2% from last year and 2% from this year will be available for employee distribution using a merit-based allocation model. Our budget priority is taking care of people; operating budgets will be flat—maintaining the status quo.
- Athletics and fans: At this time, 10% capacity for baseball; protocol-compliant, masks required inside & out, social distancing, and no concessions. Capacity reevaluations will be ongoing.
- Legislature – intent language on social justice issues. State Board to work with higher ed institutions.

VIDEO PRESENTATION: “To Create Access, We must have Quality”, Ana Mari Cauce, University of Washington (Presented at NWCCU Annual Meeting, November 2020), <https://vimeo.com/485741179/ed7b1bb296>

Takeaways:

- Higher education is both a personal and public good.
- We have a commitment to our role to deliver quality education and stay engaged with students.
- At LC State, nearly 50% of students are Pell eligible, and approximately 80% are first-generation, high need.

Spring Assignment for March: Enhance Communication & Connection in **RECRUITING**. What is your unit (and even you, personally) doing to help with recruitment?

- Responses from Council members in Academic Affairs and Faculty Senate included personal contact by faculty and division chairs through post card campaign; attending orientation/discovery day events; contacting former students to “recruit back” to finish their degrees. Luther Maddy, Business Division Chair, attended a live transfer trip to CEI, CSI to talk to deans, instructors about their students continuing their programs at LC State.
- Student Affairs reported brochure mailings, being available outside of normal business hours, holding virtual open house, highlighting alumni in advertising. Residence Life is giving live tours (with current students as tour guides) and then sending thank-you notes after the visit.
- Other responses: engaging with students and providing that personal touch—like escorting them to buildings, if needed; bringing campus staff up-to-date on student events so that they can be another resource for information; sharing with alumni and community members the ways we have been successful; and broad digital advertising. ASLCSC is embarking on a letter-writing campaign to high school students with personal testimony of how LC State benefits them.

Assignment for April:

Student retention communication & connection – your unit (April)